[Shri S. Madhavan]

They are not able to get coal for their thermal plants. They are not allowed to import cotton for their spinning mills. They are not able to get rice and edible oil to feed their population. The adjacent States are refusing to part with their surplus water which otherwise runs waste into the sea. The people of Tamil Nadu, especially turbulent youth of Tamil Nadu, are forced to think, whether they can achieve their needs in an independent Tamil nation.

I urge the Government of India to take urgent concrete steps towards the development of Tamil Nadu and save the misguided Tamil youth from the divisive forces.

I urge the Government of India to take urgent to divert the surplus water from the west flowing rivers and to link the Godavari basin with Cauvery basin and solve the water needs of Tamil Nadu State, as suggested by the National Water Agency.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): You can associate.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the Southern grid can connect the Mahanadi, the Godavari, the Krishna, the Pennar and the Cauvery.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): You can associate.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I associate myself. I would like to make only one point. I request the hon. Prime Minister to call the Chief Ministers of the five States and have a discussion with them about the surplus water that is being wasted into the sea. They can have an approximate estimate of the water for the purpose of irrigation in these five States. So, the Prime Minister should call them, discuss with them and try to solve the water problem in the Southern parts, specially in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI M. PALANIYANDI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I want to add one sentence.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Your name will be taken for association.

SHRI M. PALANIYANDI: Sir, this is a long-standing issue of Tamil Nadu. I urge upon the Government to take speedy steps to implement the scheme.

SHRI J.S. RAJU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate with Mr. Madhavan because I have also raised this issue some months back as a Special Mention. Not only myself, also raised this issue. So, I urge upon the Government to initiate the process very soon. That is all, Sir.

SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with Mr. Madhavan. The water from the west-flowing river in Kerala is going waste and getting into the sea. It should be diverted to Tamil Nadu which will benefit the districts of Madurai, Ramanthapuram, Pasumpon and Kamaraj districts. And speedy action should be taken by the Government of India to see that the water going waste is utilised for the benefit of the droughtprone areas.

Recurring attacks on the Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy and the Need to take up the Issue of Missing Fishermen on the Rameshwaram Coastline with Sri Lanka

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity. Actually, Sir, for the past six days, unfortunately, the House has not found time to take up a very vital issue for the people of India.

Sir, from 16th March, seven fishermen from the State of Tamil Nadu are missing in the coastal waters of Nagapittinam-Quaid-e-Mileth district. This has become a frequent occurrence. Over a period of time, these incidents have become almost a regular feature. And I have to say that the Government of India is not taking the matter seriously enough to really take it up with the Government of Sri Lanka. Time and again, we have brought the matter before the House. And time and again, various External Affairs Ministers have told us that they are taking it up. But nothing seems to have happened. Now the things have come to such a point that the Sri Lankan Navy now functions against the Indian fishermen with total impunity. And the situation now is that seven fishermen have been missing from the 16th of March.

We apprehend that they have been captured by the Sri Lankan Navy, and they still have not returned. Sir in the entire area over there, in the coastal area of my State, the things are very tense. More than 1,500 fishermen have not gone out to sea to fish at all. It is not a question of their livelihood because they feel a danger to their lives. Things are extremely serious and nothing is forthcoming from the Government of India about what is going to happen. Sir, what has happened is, even earlier, on the 28th of February, there was an incident where one fisherman was shot in the leg by the Sri Lankan Navy. And then he came back. This also has not been taken up. And serious damage has been caused to the property, to the fishing boats, to the fishing nets of all these fishermen. We have to take up the issue of compensation also with the Sri Lankan Navy. Sir, it is estimated that property worth more than Rs. 70 lakhs has been lost in this way. Sir, the time has now come for the Government of India to take up the matter very seriously. Sir, I demand that the Government should make a statement about the state of these fishermen. Have the Government of India taken steps to find out as to what happened to these fishermen? When will they return? Have they been held by the Sri Lankan Navy? Have the Government of India taken into account all the previous incidents that had taken place? Taking all these into account the Government should come forward with a statement in the House on how exactly the fishermen have been affected. The Government of India should also take up seriously the injuries caused to the fishermen physically, and the great amount of loss caused to their equipment because of the action of the Sri Lankan Navy. The Government should take up this matter immediately with the Sri Lankan Government. Sir, this is not something that we do not know about. This is a very strange thing. it is almost like an active war. We cannot just sit here and take it lightly. This is the Council of States. Our fishermen are being taken away. Their property is being damaged.

There is a very tense situation. It is almost like a war. And nobody seems to be taking it seriously! We should immediately call upon the Government of Sri Lanka to pay proper compensation and order an enquiry into the activities of their navy. What are we doing? We are just siting here as if we are completely unconcerned. Just because this part is deep South, should we be unconcerned in Delhi to what happens to our fishermen? Can they just not go and fish in our waters, within our boundary? And they are teken away by the Sri Lankan navy!

My demand, therefore, to the Government is that they should immediately come forward with all the facts, that they try and trace out the missing fishermen, and see that they return and also see that no harm is caused to them physically, and also seek proper compensation for all the loss that has been caused to them and take steps to see that such incidents do not occur in future.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): The Minister is here; I am sure they will take note of it.

Mr. Vincent, you also want to say something.

SHRI M. VINCENT (Tamil Nadu): Sir, on 28th February, 1992, six kilometres east of Kodikarai in Indian waters, Indian fishermen from Vetharanyam were shot at by the Sri Lankan navy. Their boats were damaged. On 1-3-1992, eight kilometres south-east of Kodikarai lighthouse, the fishermen were continuously fired upon by the Sri Lankan navy. Boats and fishing nets costing lakhs of rupees have been damaged. Fisherman Mailvakanan was shot at in the leg and injured. The injured fisherman produced the bullets fired by the Sri Lankan navy to our Indian Navy stationed at Kodikarai. On 10th March also, there was a shooting incident.

In yet another shocking incident on 16-3-92, seven fishermen of Nagapattinam were shot at by the Sri Lankan navy in our Indian waters and they are missing. The whereabouts of these seven fishermen are not known. This incident has infuriated the fishing villagers and it is creating a law and order problem in the coastal areas of Nagapattinam.

[Shri M. Vincent]

Our Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi has sent a telex message giving details of the occurrence and the situation, to the Prime Minister. Our Chief Minister has also urged upon the Government to take up the matter with Sri Lanka to secure release of the fishermen immediately and for their safe return.

Earlier, our Chief Minister had now and then been giving details of every incident to the Prime Minister in person and in writing with a special request to find a permanent solution for the protection of our Indian fishermen, and to ensure that the Sri Lankan navy, does not indulge in such activities in future.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): You have only to associate.

SHRI M. VINCENT: The Prime Minister had already raised this issue with the Sri Lankan President, Mr. Premadasa when he met him during the SAARC Summit in December, on the repeated representations of our Chief Minister. The Centre has assured that these incidents are being strongly taken up with the Sri Lankan Government and that they are continuously in touch with them on this matter. But such incidents are being repeated by the Sri Lankan navy. In particular, within a period of 18 days, from 28th February to 16th March, the Sri Lankan navy has indulged in four incidents. They were firing at the fishermen and now seven fisherman are missing.

The chain of events is an open challenge and insult by the tiny island to the sovereignty of Indian. So far, more than 50 fishermen have lost their lives and about 200 had sustained injuries, besides the huge loss to property.

I demand that the Centre should evolve a concrete and permanent solution to this recurring massacre and damage. Whereas firing by Pakistan from across the line of actual control in Kashmir, is returned by fire immediately and is condemned by the Centre, why don't you similarly order our Navy to return the fire and protect our Indian fishermen in the Indian waters? Why is the Centre not considering the land and the sea borders alike?

I call upon the Central Govenment to immediately get a resolution passed in Parliament to warn Sri Lankan navy and to condemn the killings and firing at the Indian fishermen. I also urge upon the Government to immediately implement and put into practice the provision of section 5 of the Katchathivu agreement which gives rights of fishing and rights to dry the nets in Katchathivu for the Indian fishermen. If the provison for protection of the rights of the Indian fishermen under section 5 of the agreement is violated by Sri Lanka, the Centre should take control of Katchathivu, for permanent solution of the problem. Our Navy should be strengthened immediately by establishing a naval station in one of the islands. At any cost, the Centre should protect the traditional source of earning and the lives of the Tamil Nadu fishermen.

As requested by our Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, the Centre should take immediate steps to claim compensation for the loss of properties of our fishermen during all these incidents indulged in by the Sri Lankan Government.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): I am sure the Government is taking note of it. The Minister is here. Please convey the sense of the House that the matter concerning fishermen, their missing and death, is an urgent one. Some statement should be made to the House. They are all agitated. It is not a question of South or North.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): I will do that.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Sir, I will not go beyond that. The trouble relating to Indian fishermen and Sri Lankan Navy capturing them arose because the Katchathivu area was handed over by the Government of Indian to Sri Lanka.The Sri Lankan Navy comes near the Katchathivu area in the Indian waters where our Indian fishermen come for fishing. They are being attacked. Now the information through the newspapers is that 7 fishermen are there in the Sri Lankan jail. This has been happening for a long time. Indian

fishermen are not only attacked by the Sri Lankan navy, they are the targets of LTTE also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): I have already observed. It is enough.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I will take just half a minute more.

The LTTE people have been smuggling foreign items from the Indian areas and when the fishermen intercept them, they also kill the Indian fishermen. This is a very serious situation. A tense situation is prevailing there.

I request the Central Government to take up the matter at a diplomatic level immediately with the Government of Sri Lanka and see that all the 7 fishermen are returned. Secondly, in future our navy should be sent to these coastal areas so that the Indian fishermen could get protection.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Please have trust in the Government. The Government has already take note of it. They are looking into it. (*Interruptions*). You can associate.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I come from Ramanathapuram district. Near Rameswaram and the coastal areas of Ramanathapuram fishermen are being harassed and made targets of attack by the Sri Lankan army. The only answer to this is to have the Sethusamudram project, through which we can guard our coastal area and protect the interest of our fishermen. So, I urge upon the Government to see that this Sethusamudram project is given to this national as quickly as possible.

Clash Between Army and Police Personnel in Mhow, District Indore, on the occasion of Holi. resulting in injuries to may and loss of property worth lakhs of rupees

श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय (मध्य प्रदेश): मान्यवर, आपके माध्यम से मैं इस सर्वोच्च सदन मे अति महत्वपूर्ण मामला विशेष उल्लेख के माध्यम से रखना चाहता हूं।

दिनांक 19 मार्च, 1992 को होली के दिन, जिस दिन धूलेण्डी थी उस दिन महू जिला इन्दौर, मध्य प्रदेश मे सेना के जवान तथा पुलिस के बीच हुए संघर्ष मे 63 व्यक्ति घायल हो गये, जिसमें 35 नागरिक, 20 पुलिस के जवान तथा आठ सेना के जवान जो फौजी थे तथा 150 वाहन जिसमें स्कूटर, मोटर साईकिल, कार आदि हैं और 100 दुकानों तथा मकानों में आग लगाकर क्षति पहुंचायी गयी तथा पुलिस कोतवाली में तोड़-फोड़ की गयी। स्थिति अनियंत्रित होते देखकर जिला प्रशासन ने उसी दिन शाम 6.30 बजे महू क्षेत्र में अनिश्चित कालीन कर्फ्यू लगा दिया था।

मान्यवर, महू एक सेंसेटिव क्षेत्र बनता जा रहा है। यहां पर प्रति वर्ष कभी साम्प्रदायिक झगड़े के उनमाद से, कभी हिन्दु-मुस्लिम विवादों को लेकर के, कभी धार्मिक उत्सवों में झगड़े आदि होते रहते हैं, उसको लेकर के कर्फ्यू लगा दिया जाता है। इस घटना के सम्बन्ध में सेना की ओर से आरोप लगाया गया है और इंफेंट्री स्कूल महू के मेजर श्री आर०बी० जग्राथ ने बताया कि 19 मार्च, 1992 को दोपहर 2.30 बजे मेन स्ट्रीट में होली का रंग डालने पर गड़बड़ हुई। इस पर पुलिस ने मेजर एस० वेणु गोपालन पर लाठी प्रहार किया। इससे वहां मौजूद अफसर रूष्ट हो गए और उन्होंने पुलिस जवान से माफी मांगने को कहा किंतु पुलिस द्वारा माफी नहीं मांगने पर उपद्रव हो गया। भारी संख्या में लोग पुलिस कोतवाली आ गए तथा पथराव और आगजनी शुरू हो गई। उस समय वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारी कोतवाली छोड़कर भाग गए। फौजियों पर पथराव हुआ तो फौजी जवानों ने भागकर पुलिस थाने में शरण ली। इस घटना से 8 फौजी जवानों को चोटें आई तथा टांके आए जिनका उपचार फौजी अस्पताल में हो रहा है। घटनास्थल से वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारियों का भागना अपने कर्तव्य के प्रति लापरवाही का परिचायक है। उस समय प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों का फर्ज था कि असामाजिक तत्व जो पथराव और आगजनी कर रहे थे, उनके खिलाफ सख्त कार्यवाही करके उनको पकड़ते। सेना के फौजियों को 10 मोटरसाइकिलें आग लगाकर जला दी गईं।

घटना का ब्यौरा एस०पी० अनिल कुमार धस्माना ने दिया। उन्होंने सैन्य अधिकारियों तथा नागरिकों के बीच हुए विवाद को देखते हुए 19 मार्च को शाम 6.30 बजे से अनिश्चितकालीन कर्फ्यू लगा दिया। इस झगड़े में 63 व्यक्ति घायल हो गए और आगजनी, तोड़फोड़, मारपीट में 6 लाख रुपए की संपत्ति का नुकसान हुआ। एस०पी० श्री धस्माना ने ब्यौरा देते हुए बताया कि 18 मार्च की शाम 11 बजे होटल नटराज के सामने सेना के यंग आफिसर द्वारा नागरिकों से झगड़े की सूचना मिलने पर पुलिस ने मौके पर पहुंचकर झगड़े को शांत किया और पुलिस ने इसकी सूचना एडम कमांडेंट कर्नल शर्मा को दी। कर्नल शर्मा ने कर्नल झा को मौके पर भेजा और उन्होंने फौजियों को समझा कर भेज दिया।

19 मार्च को मेन स्ट्रीट पर मूनलाईट लाण्ड्री के पास सेना के जवानों और नागरिकों के बीच झगड़े की सूचना प्राप्त होने पर घटनास्थल पर नगर निरीक्षक श्री ठाकुर